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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH**

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR, *et al.*,

Defendants,

and

SOUTHERN UTAH WILDERNESS
ALLIANCE, *et al.*, and SAN JUAN
CITIZENS ALLIANCE, *et al.*,

Defendant-Intervenors.

) Case No. 2:24-cv-665-DBB-DAO

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) Honorable David Barlow

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) **JOINT STATUS REPORT**

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Defendants U.S. Department of the Interior *et al.*, Plaintiffs American Farm Bureau

Federation *et al.*, and Defendant-Intervenors Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance *et al.* and San

Juan Citizens Alliance, *et al.* respectfully submit this joint status report in response to the Court's

April 2, 2025 Order, ECF No. 81. Defendants request that the stay be extended by an additional sixty days to allow new administration officials to continue to evaluate the litigation and determine how they wish to proceed. No party opposes this request.

This case challenges the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, 89 Fed. Reg. 40,308 (May 9, 2024) (“Public Lands Rule”). Plaintiffs allege that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) violated the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Administrative Procedure Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Congressional Review Act in promulgating the rule. *See* Compl., ECF No. 1. Plaintiffs filed an opening merits brief pursuant to District of Utah Local Civil Rule 7-4(c) on December 12, 2024, *see* ECF No. 69, and Defendants filed their merits brief on January 17, 2025. *See* ECF No. 76. At Defendants’ request, further briefing has been stayed. *See* April 2, 2025 Order.

Courts have broad discretion to stay proceedings and to defer judicial review in the interest of justice and efficiency. “[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.” *Air Line Pilots Ass’n v. Miller*, 523 U.S. 866, 879 n.6 (1998) (quoting *Landis v. North Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)); *see also* *CMAX, Inc. v. Hall*, 300 F.2d 265, 268 (9th Cir. 1962); *Am. Petroleum Inst. v. EPA*, 683 F.3d 382, 388 (D.C. Cir. 2012) (premature and unnecessary judicial review “would hardly be sound stewardship of judicial resources”).

Due to the recent change in administration on January 20, 2025, there is new leadership at the Department of the Interior. Those new officials are in the process of familiarizing themselves with the Public Lands Rule and the litigation regarding the rule. In addition, Secretary’s Order 3418 directs Department of the Interior staff to review certain previously

issued rules, including the Public Lands Rule, and take steps, as appropriate, to suspend, revise, or rescind such rules. *See* Secretary's Order No. 3418 § 4.b., available at:

<https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3418-unleashing-american-energy> (last visited Mar. 20, 2025). To allow time for the Department of the Interior to conduct that review process, the government respectfully requests that the Court stay these proceedings for sixty days. At the end of the sixty day period, the parties will file a status report indicating how the parties intend to proceed.

A proposed order is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of June 2025,

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**Admitted pro hac vice*